



# State Representative John H. Frey

## LOCAL ISSUES



Representative Frey takes part in a December 2005 event announcing a state grant for the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club.

### Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club Grant

I am pleased to have helped secure a \$400,000 state grant to be used toward the expansion of the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club. The club currently serves about 1,500 students. However, that number is forecast to grow to 2,000 in the next five years.

The club has raised approximately \$3 million in private contributions and received all necessary town approvals for the project. It has also raised \$1 million as an endowment to ensure programs remain affordable for local youths. Expansion plans call for additional facilities for arts and crafts, a teen room and game room that will serve youths through their teen years.

### Route 7 Widening Project On Schedule

Phase I of the Route 7 widening/reconstruction project is currently on schedule and Ridgefielders will see additional signs of progress throughout the summer and fall. I continue to be updated on a weekly basis on the construction progress from Department of Transportation (DOT) officials, and personally negotiated for night time work for the most disruptive points of the roadway construction.

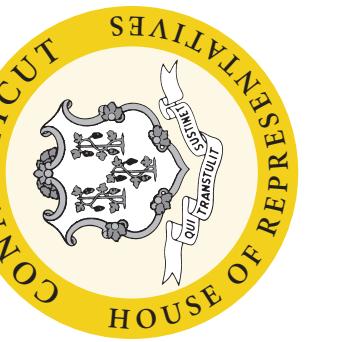
To date, DOT has shown diligence in keeping the project running smoothly. Phase I is expected to be completed in September 2007. The second phase, which will comprise an additional 1.5 miles, is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2008.

State Representative



**JOHN H. FREY**  
Proudly Serving the 111<sup>th</sup> District  
Ridgefield ★ Connecticut

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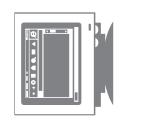


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# 2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



**State Representative**  
**JOHN H. FREY**  
Proudly Serving the 111<sup>th</sup> District  
Ridgefield ★ Connecticut



**Representative Frey  
discusses pending  
legislation with  
Governor M. Jodi Rell.**

## SENIORS

### Homecare Oversight

Public Act 06-187 will help protect the interests of senior citizens by requiring companies providing homemaker or companion services to obtain a certificate of registration from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). It also gives DCP authority to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue the registration or take other disciplinary measures in response to violations of the bill.

Under the bill, beginning this October, these companies must require new employees to undergo comprehensive background checks and take specified factors into account when making employment decisions based on the checks. Homecare agencies must also provide their clients with written individualized contracts or service plans that identify the services' scope, type, frequency, and duration. In addition, agencies that enter into a contract with a client's family must detail exact compensation.

### Property Tax Freeze

Public Act 06-176 allows municipalities to freeze the property taxes on homes owned by certain elderly people. To be eligible, the homeowner or spouse must be age 70 or older and have lived in the state for at least one year. The freeze continues for a surviving spouse who is at least age 62 when the homeowner dies. Homeowners must meet the same income limits as apply to the existing state-reimbursed "circuit breaker" program, which currently gives qualified homeowners age 65 or over a tax credit against the property taxes on their homes.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Prohibiting Underage Drinking On Private Property

I cosponsored Public Act 06-112, which is designed to address a loophole in state law that has allowed underage drinking on private property. Under current law, the penalty for illegal possession in public places is a fine of \$200 to \$500. This act also makes it illegal for a minor to possess alcohol anywhere, rather than only in public places and makes a first offense an infraction.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

### Reducing Hospital Infections

Public Act 06-142 will help reduce infections acquired in hospitals, which can lead to very serious medical problems. The legislation, which I cosponsored, creates a committee to develop a mandatory reporting system for all healthcare associated infections. The report must also be posted on the Department of Public Health website and be available to the public. Because this legislation establishes a detailed reporting system, it marks an excellent step toward reducing such infections.

## Living Wills

Public Act 06-195 updates state law regarding the use of living wills. The legislation addresses issues that allow for more effective utilization of living wills, including authorizing a person's chosen healthcare representative to make healthcare decisions if they are incapable of personally expressing those wishes.

## TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

### \$2.3 Billion Package

Public Act 06-136 will provide for improvements to highways and mass transit in all corners of the state, allocating \$2.3 billion over a 10-year period. As the only legislator from the Greater Danbury delegation who serves on the Legislature's transportation bonding sub-committee, I have worked to make improvements to Interstate 84 a priority for transportation funding. This legislation will fund the completion of the engineering and design phase of widening I-84 between Waterbury and Danbury.

I have also focused on including commuter rail improvements for the greater Danbury area in the state's transportation plans. This act includes funding to upgrade rail cars and to begin the electrification of the Danbury rail line.

By electrifying the Danbury rail line, we will provide for speedier and more reliable transportation for our commuters. Completing the design and engineering phase of the I-84 widening also serves as a major jump start to that project, which will bring about a less congested, safer interstate for Western Connecticut.

Other projects that will be funded include: the restoration of commuter rail service between New Haven and Springfield, MA; the renovation of rail cars for use on Shore Line East, the New Haven-Springfield Line and Branch Lines and dredging of the state's commercial ports.

The bill does not include previous proposals for increasing the state gasoline tax or bringing back highway tolls. The package will be funded through revenue bonds.



## CONSUMER PROTECTION

### Prohibiting "Phishing"

Public Act 06-50 prohibits email "phishing," which is typically a scam that uses email "spam" or pop-up messages to deceive people into disclosing their credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security number, passwords, or other sensitive information. The bill will specifically prohibit the practice in Connecticut, making any violation a Class D felony.

### Protection Against Identity Theft

I cosponsored Public Act 06-60, which outlaws small scanners and reencoders that can be used to create fake credit cards. This is an ever increasing problem throughout the country and this measure is a step toward protecting our residents. Penalties for violating the new law include up to 10 years imprisonment, fines of up to \$10,000 or both.

## SPENDING AND TAXES

### 2006-2007 State Budget

I did not vote in favor of the 2006-2007 state budget. While the budget package includes several good points, such as repealing the 15 percent corporation tax credit surcharge in 2007 and raising the maximum property tax credit on the state income from \$350 to \$500, it fails to eliminate or even reduce the estate tax. It also provides almost no increase in the State's Education Cost Sharing formula for Ridgefield.

Based on a statutory formula:

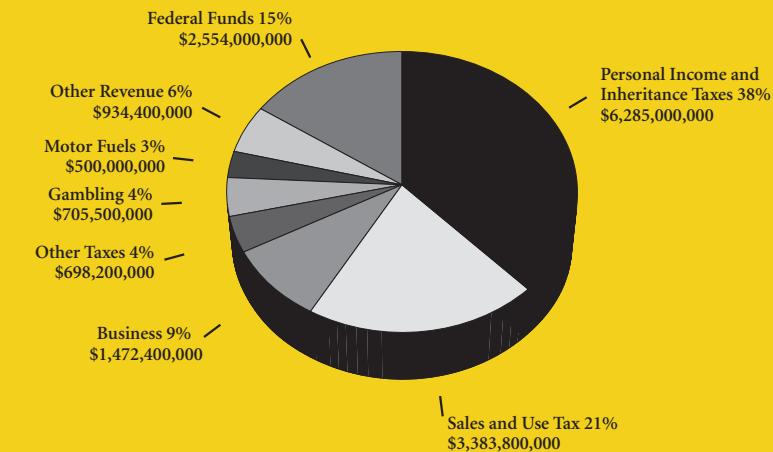
Ridgefield will receive \$2,062,679, an increase of \$141,333. It will also receive a one-time revenue sharing grant of \$12,941 from the state surplus.

I am often asked questions on where the state derives its revenue and how it is spent. The chart below provides an overview of revenue and spending. I hope you find it informative.

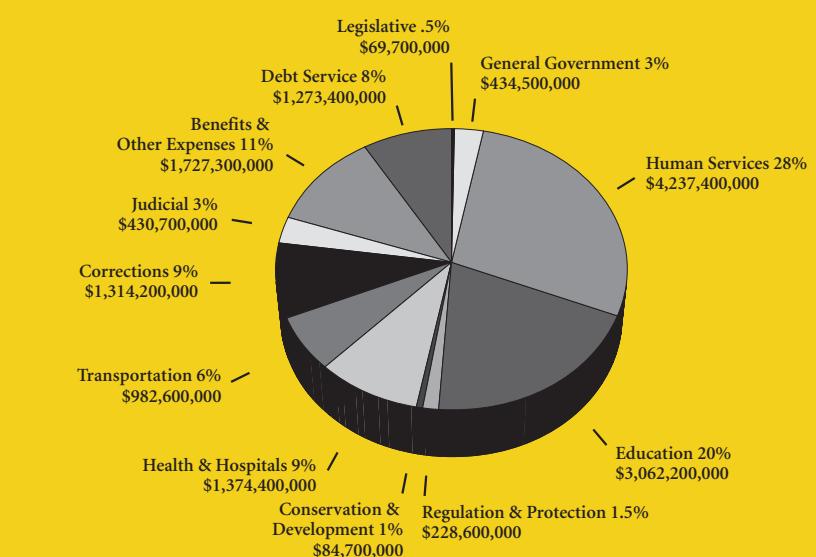
## BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



\*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.